

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06

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DRAFTED BY EUR/RPM:EREHFELD:LKC

APPROVED BY EUR/RPM:EREHFELD

OSD/ISA:MR. DUNLOP

EUR/NE:MR. SHUMATE

PM/ISP:MR. FLOWERREE (INFORMED)

----- 111669

R 030238Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 191466

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, NATO, AWACS

SUBJECT: LETTER RE NATO EARLY WARNING (AEW)

REF: STATE 173602

1. AN ADVANCE COPY OF A LETTER FROM SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR DEFENCE MASON TO SECRETARY OF DEFENSE RUMSFELD IS  
QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

" 29 JUL 1976

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 12 JULY. I AM GRATEFUL  
TO YOU FOR YOUR ASSURANCE ABOUT THE USE TO WHICH THE  
STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING ON AEW PRE-FINANCING WILL BE  
PUT.

I TOO SUPPORT DR LA BERGE'S CURRENT CONSULTATIONS. I HAVE,  
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AS YOU KNOW, SPOKEN CONSISTENTLY IN FAVOUR OF A TRULY EF-

FECTIONAL NATO FORCE, PROVIDED ITS COSTS WERE SHARED IN A MANNER THAT WAS FAIR AND WITHIN OUR MEANS. THIS PROVISION IS, AS I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND, ONE TO WHICH I ATTACH GREAT IMPORTANCE, PARTICULARLY IN OUR PRESENT PUBLIC EXPENDITURE SITUATION.

THE UNITED KINGDOM REQUIREMENT FOR A REPLACEMENT OF THE

SHACKLETON IS URGENT AND I WOULD HAVE MUCH PREFERRED A CLEAR DECISION AT LAST MONTH'S DPC. A FURTHER POSTPONEMENT WOULD DRIVE ME CLOSER TO A CONCLUSION THAT NO NATO COLLECTIVE DECISION COULD EVER BE REACHED. IN SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES THE ARGUMENTS IN FAVOUR OF NIMROD WOULD BE VERY STRONG INDEED.

AS IT IS I SHALL BE FACED WITH THE NEED TO MAKE A CONSIDERED CHOICE BETWEEN A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT OPTIONS FROM AMONG THE VARIOUS VERSIONS OF AWACS AND NIMROD AEW, FOR A BRITISH CONTRIBUTION OF AEW FORCES FOR THE NATO EASTERN ATLANTIC, CHANNEL AND UNITED KINGDOM AREAS. TO HELP ME REACH A CONSIDERED JUDGEMENT ON THIS DIFFICULT MATTER, I AGREE THAT CONFIDENTIAL BILATERAL TALKS MAY BE USEFUL, TO COMPLETE OUR INFORMATION ON THE OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED. SINCE THE ISSUE IS PRIMARILY THE CONCERN OF THE ROYAL AIR FORCE I SUGGEST THAT MY CHIEF OF AIR STAFF SHOULD GET IN TOUCH WITH GENERAL JONES ON THE FORM AND LOCATION OF THE TALKS AND ON THE QUESTION OF WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE IN THEM.

I MUST MAKE CLEAR, HOWEVER, AND I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT WE SHOULD AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING ON THE POINT, THAT MY AGREEMENT TO THESE TALKS IS ENTIRELY WITHOUT COMMITMENT TO ANY BILATERAL PURCHASE OF THE E3A AWACS OR ANY ARRANGEMENT OF THE KIND OUTLINED IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE HANDED OVER BY YOUR EMBASSY IN LONDON ON 4TH JUNE. FOR ME THE PURPOSE OF THE TALKS IS SOLELY TO PROVIDE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE TO HELP ME TO TAKE A DECISION ON THE DIFFERENT OPTIONS."

2. A REPLY IS IN PREPARATION. BRITISH TEAM SCHEDULED TO  
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ARRIVE WASHINGTON AUG. 9 FOR TALKS WITH AIR STAFF. KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AWACS, TEXT, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, FINANCE, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, WARNING SYSTEMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 03 AUG 1976  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** MILI, US, UK, NATO, (RUMSFELD, DONALD), (MASON, ROY)  
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